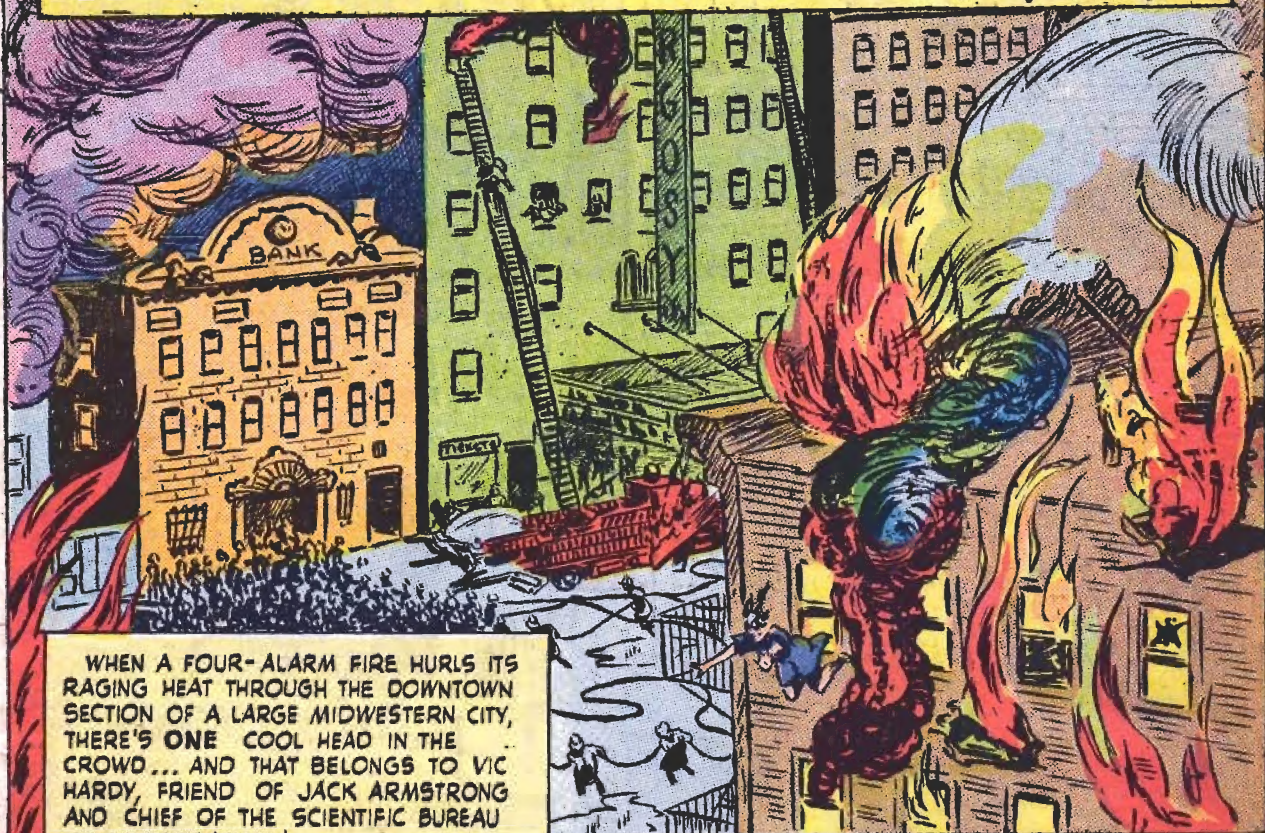


A NEW JACK ARMSTRONG ADVENTURE

SHOT in the DARK



WHEN A FOUR-ALARM FIRE HURLS ITS RAGING HEAT THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN SECTION OF A LARGE MIDWESTERN CITY, THERE'S ONE COOL HEAD IN THE CROWD... AND THAT BELONGS TO VIC HARDY, FRIEND OF JACK ARMSTRONG AND CHIEF OF THE SCIENTIFIC BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION !

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE FIREBUG'S FRIEND... A CAN OF METALLIC SODIUM !



WHAT'S THE HURRY, VIC ?

COME ALONG, JACK ! I'M HEADING FOR THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF THE "STAR". JUST UNCOVERED SOME RED HOT EVIDENCE ON THIS FIRE !



AT THE "STAR," VIC AND JACK HAVE A TALK WITH EDITOR ED NIXON!

BUT WHAT'S ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?

DON'T YOU SEE, MR. NIXON? VIC HAS EVIDENCE THAT THE FIRE WAS **DELIBERATELY SET** IN A BUILDING OWNED BY JEFFERS...



... WHICH MEANS THAT BOSS JEFFERS HAD A FIREBUG DO THE JOB SO THAT HE COULD COLLECT INSURANCE ON HIS BURNED BUILDING!

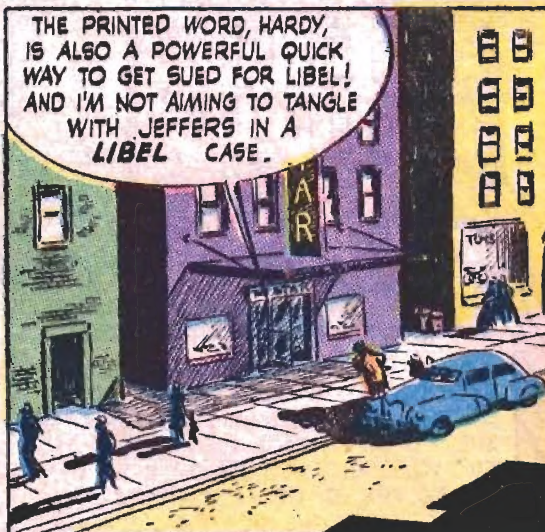


AND YOU EXPECT ME TO PRINT **THAT** WITHOUT ANY MORE EVIDENCE THAN A CAN OF SOUP—OR SODIUM, OR WHATEVER IT IS?

IT'S YOUR CHANCE, NIXON, TO PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE MOST BRAZEN CROOK IN TOWN. THE PRINTED WORD IS A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT FOR GOOD.



THE PRINTED WORD, HARDY, IS ALSO A POWERFUL QUICK WAY TO GET SUED FOR LIBEL! AND I'M NOT AIMING TO TANGLE WITH JEFFERS IN A **LIBEL CASE**.



AT THAT MOMENT...

SOMEBODY'S **LIABLE** TO GET HURT IF I DON'T GET THAT SODIUM CAN—PRONTO!



STAY WHERE YOU ARE FOR TEN MINUTES—OR YOU'LL BE LEAKIN' LEAD ALL OVER YOUR PRETTY NEWSPAPER OFFICE!

C'MON, MAC, WE GOT THE STUFF—LET'S BLOW!



NEXT DAY, IN VIC'S CRIME LAB -

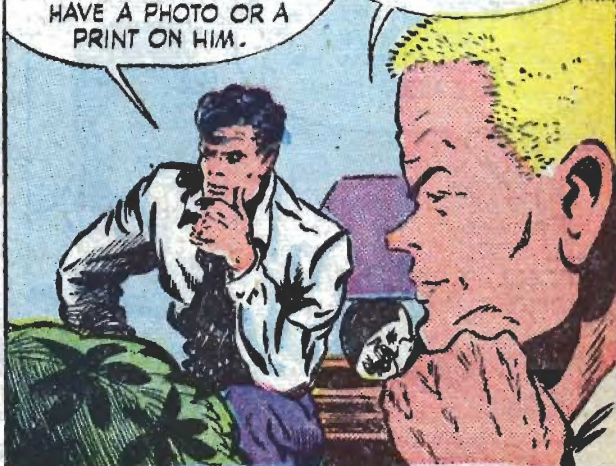
I CAN'T EXACTLY BLAME NIXON FOR NOT PRINTING THE STORY. JEFFERS' HOODLUMS WOULD TEAR THE "STAR" TO PIECES!

THAT MUG JEFFERS CAN'T DO THIS TO THE "STAR" - IT'S UNCONSTELLATIONAL!



FUNNY THING ABOUT BOSS JEFFERS... **NOBODY HAS EVER SEEN HIM!** EVEN THE FBI DOESN'T HAVE A PHOTO OR A PRINT ON HIM.

WONDER HOW HIS THUGS KNEW WE HAD THE SODIUM CAN?



SPEAKING OF THE FBI, THEY WIRED ME TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A GANG OF WAREHOUSE THIEVES OPERATING ON THE STATE BORDER.



PROBABLY MORE OF JEFFERS' DIRTY WORK... HE SEEMS TO HAVE A CORNER ON CRIME HEREBABOUTS!

EVERY CORNER HAS ITS TURNING, BILLY, AND JEFFERS IS NO EXCEPTION!



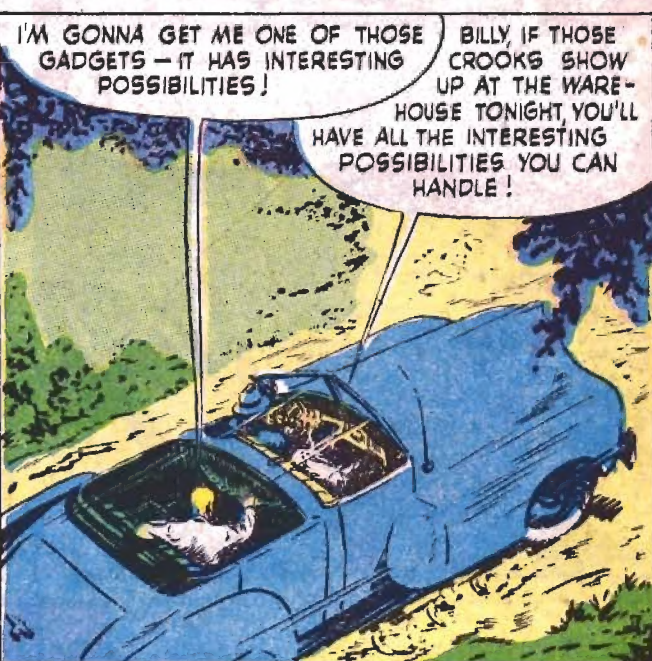
IF JEFFERS IS MIXED UP WITH THIS GANG OF WAREHOUSE THIEVES, I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT MAY BRING HIM INTO THE OPEN!

LET'S HEAR IT, JACK.



"WELL, SUPPOSE WE PLANT A NEWS ITEM IN THE 'STAR' THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO JEFFERS AND HIS MOB..."





THAT NIGHT IN A WAREHOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...

LOOKS LIKE THE FISH PASSED UP THE BAIT.

SHH! HERE COMES A CAR, NOW!



THREE STEALTHY FIGURES QUICKLY ENTER THE BUILDING.



OUCH!

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A TRAP—LET'S BLOW!

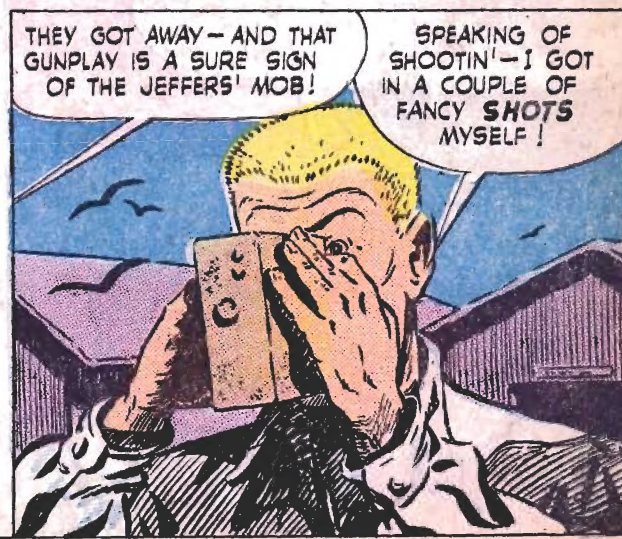


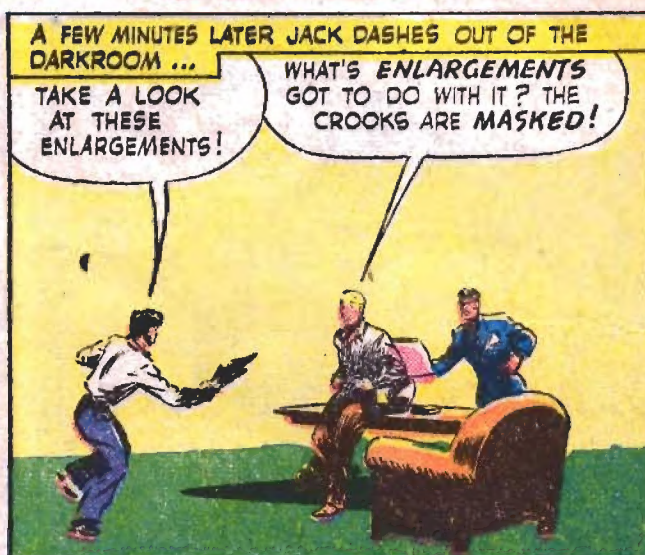
STOP—IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!



THEY GOT AWAY—AND THAT GUNPLAY IS A SURE SIGN OF THE JEFFERS' MOB!

SPEAKING OF SHOOTIN'—I GOT IN A COUPLE OF FANCY SHOTS MYSELF!





WELL, WELL, GENTLEMEN -
WHAT'S THE BIG HURRY?

GET READY TO
MAKE-OVER ON
PAGE ONE,
NIXON...



EH? WHAT'S
THIS?

THAT'S RIGHT, NIXON...WE'VE GOT
A STORY FOR YOU THAT'LL PUT
THE FINGER ON JEFFERS AND
HIS MOB!

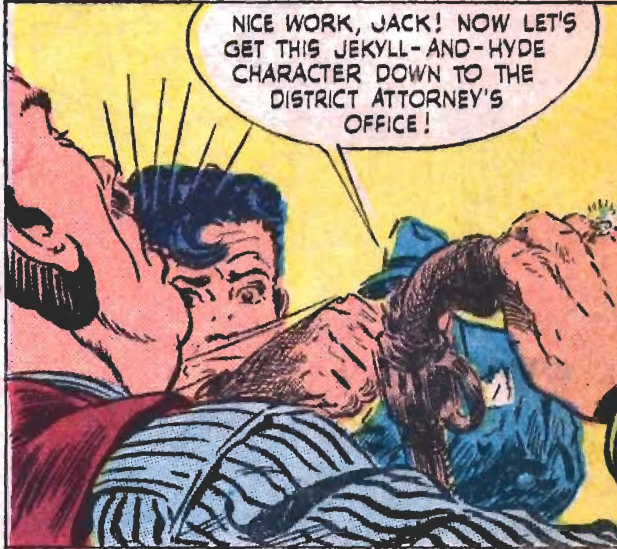


BUT NOBODY KNOWS
WHO JEFFERS IS!
HOW CAN I PRINT
A STORY ABOUT...

...ABOUT **YOURSELF**?
WHY THAT SHOULD BE
EASY...WHEN WE SHOW
YOU THIS PICTURE OF
YOUR HAND WITH A
GUN IN IT!



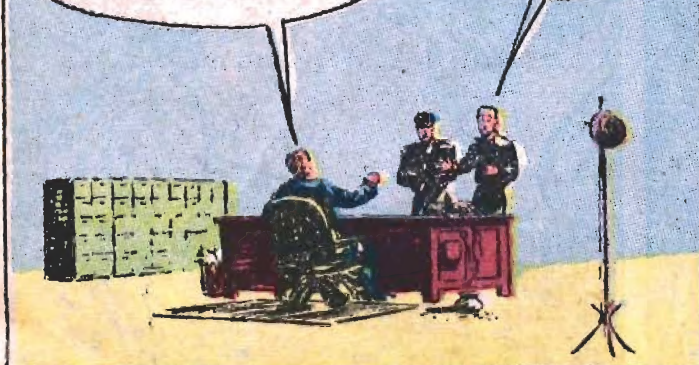
NICE WORK, JACK! NOW LET'S
GET THIS JEKYLL-AND-HYDE
CHARACTER DOWN TO THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE!



LATER, AT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE...

MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU ON
UNMASKING NIXON. UNDOUBTEDLY
HE IS A **SPLIT PERSONALITY**
WITH CRIMINAL TENDENCIES. EVEN
HIS OWN MOB DIDN'T KNOW
WHO HE WAS!

YEAH, I GUESS
YOU'RE RIGHT
ABOUT THAT SPLIT
PERSONALITY,
MR. D.A. ...



... AN' I HOPE YOU MAKE SURE
HE **SPLITS NOTHING BUT
ROCKS**, FROM NOW ON!

